

Cold Weather Applications

OVERVIEW

Cold weather requires the application to be aware that certain precautions must be adhered to in order that BITEC modified bitumen membranes can be installed with success. It is recommended that BITEC membranes be applied only when ambient temperatures are above 40°F for APP membranes, and 30°F for SBS membranes.

During cold weather, or anytime the temperature is below 50°F, the material which is to be installed must be kept in a warm environment (55°F+) until immediately before application. When application occurs below the above mentioned temperature the following precautions should be followed:

- a)** Never throw rolls of membrane onto the roof deck. Coatings may crack.
- b)** When torching, unroll the membrane slowly, and at a rate that will allow sufficient melting of coatings to effectively do the job.
- c)** When mopping, care should be taken to keep the mopping asphalt temperature high enough to effectively bond the membrane to the substrate and bond all of the laps.
- d)** Do not fold the membrane or crease it. This could result in the cracking of the coatings.
- e)** Adjust the propane torch to the desired temperature to provide enough heat to melt coatings.

f) Never leave materials to be installed the following day, to remain on the roof overnight as the temperature may drop, cooling the roll of membrane. (It takes several hours to warm or cool a membrane in single roll form and several days to do the same for a pallet of wrapped material.)

g) Never apply membranes on a deck having frost accumulation, of any amount, until deck is completely dry. (Do not use torch to dry roof.)

h) Likewise never apply membranes on a deck having any amount of condensate. (You increase the likelihood of improper bonding on a wet deck.)

i) Use good common sense and work safely. Decks with ice, frost or snow are hazardous to work on as traction is poor.

j) Propane bottles may tend to freeze more rapidly on cold days, especially if you are using large quantities of propane to overcome atmospheric temperature and wind. Never use another torch to heat or thaw the propane bottle which is frosting.

These precautions can and will help. However, the applicator must take into consideration that at extremely cold temperatures, 25°F and below, he is taking a risk in that the membrane installation can be inconsistent and poorly adhered.